

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /123 W
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R 181330 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5030

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 7134

PASS TO DR. A. S. FRIEDMAN, USAEC, GERMANTOWN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY JUNE 17, 1973
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

BOMBAY 1193

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ENRG, IN
SUBJECT: TARAPUR POWER LOSS

SUMMARY: SHUTDOWN OF THE TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION ON
TUESDAY JUNE 12 DUE ENTIRELY TO EXTERNAL CAUSES. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE PRE- MONSOON SHOWERS IN SEVERAL PARTS
OF MAHARASHTRA, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES TIDKE ANNOUNCED ON
JUNE 7 THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS EASING THE 16 PERCENT POWER
CUT WHICH HAD BEEN IN FORCE IN MAHARASHTRA SINCE DECEMBER
1972. THE FOLLOWING EVENING, FRIDAY JUNE 8, TATA'S TROMBAY
THERMAL STATION WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING DURING THE CONTINU-
ING RAINS, WITH THE RESULTANT SHUTDOWN OF ONE UNIT. WITH THE
LOSS OF ONE TATA THERMAL UNIT AT TROMBAY AND ONE UNIT OF
TNE NASIK THERMAL STATION, A TOTAL OF 290 MW WERE LOST,
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LEAVING 1050 MW FOR BOMBAY, THE MAJOR CONSUMER OF POWER IN KARASHTRA.

THE MONSOON ARRIVED AT BOMBAY ON MONDAY JUNE 11, AND IN THE ENSUING STORMS, LIGHTNING NEXT STRUCK A TRANSMISSION LINE NEAR NAVSARI, BARODA, CUTTING OFF THE TARAPUR SUPPLY TO GUJARAT. WITH THE LOSS OF THE GUJARAT LINES, THE ENTIRE TARAPUR SUPPLY WAS NOW AVAILABLE TO MAHARASHTRA WITH THE CONSTRAINT THAT THE GRID IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE MAXIMUM OF 350 TO 360 MW. AT ABOUT 2020 HOURS ON TUESDAY JUNE 12, AT THE REQUEST OF THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY BOARD AND AFTER THE GEB HAD REPORTED THAT THEIR FEEDER HAD BEEN CHECKED, THE MAHARASHTRA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD'S OPERATOR AT TARAPUR SWITCHED ON ONE OF THE GUJARAT FEEDERS FOR THE TARAPUR- NAVSARI LINK WHICH HAD TRIPPED ON MONDAY. AS SOON AS THIS WAS DONE, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF A PERSISTING FAULT IN THE GUJARAT TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, NOT ONLY THE GUJARAT FEEDER TRIPPED, BUT ALSO ONE OF THE MAHARASHTRA FEEDERS, AS WELL AS THE BUS SECTION BREAKER IN THE TARAPUR SWITCHYARD BELONGING TO THE MSEB. AS A RESULT, BOTH REACTORS SCRAMMED LEADING TO A TOTAL LOSS OF POWER AT TARAPUR 2020 HOURS TUESDAY JUNE 12. ALTHOUGH THE NORMAL LIMIT OF POWER FROM THE FEEDER IS 200 MW, BECAUSE OF THE CRITICAL POWDAGE IN MAHARASHTRA 360 MW WAS BEING SUPPLIED TO THE MAHARASHTRA GRID ON TUESDAY WHEN THE REACTOR SCRAMMED. AT THE TIME THE TWO TARAPUR UNITS TRIPPED, THE STATE'S SUPPLY WAS 1050 MW. IT DROPPED SHARPLY TO 700 MW AND A BLACK- OUT WAS AVERTED, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, BECAUSE OF TATA SAFETY DEVICES. INDEED, CONSIDERABLE POSITIVE EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON THE BLESSINGS OF THE TATA FAIL- SAFE DEVICE ON THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM -- THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY. THE SUDDEN ONE- THIRD DROP IN THE LOAD LED TO THE FREQUENCY DROPPING TO 46.5 CYCLES FROM THE NORMAL 50 CYCLES.

2. TARAPUR UNIT ONE WAS RESYNCHRONIZED TO THE GRID AT 0958 HOURS WEDNESDAY. UNIT TWO WAS READY FOR OPERATION AN HOUR LATER AND AFTER OBTAINING CLEARANCE FROM THE MSEB WAS RESYNCHRONIZED TO THE GRID AT 1615 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 13. AS OF 1200 HOURS ON THURSDAY JUNE 14 UNIT ONE IS OPERATING AT 183 MW AND UNIT TWO AT 145 MW, FOR A TOTAL POWER OUTPUT FROM TARAPUR OF 328 MW. THE GUJARAT LINES ARE STILL NOT OPERATING SO THAT THE POWER ON THE MAHARASHTRA

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LINES MUST BE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM OF 350 TO 360 MW. AS SOON AS THE GUJARAT LINES ARE REPAIRED AND ARE OPERATIONAL, THEN THE REACTORS MAY BE UTILIZED AT THEIR FULL CAPACITY.

3. THE NASIK GENERATOR IS EXPECTED TO BE COMMISSIONED BY FRIDAY, JUNE 15 AND THE TATA UNIT AT TROMBAY IS EXPECTED TO

BE COMMISSIONED BY MONDAY JUNE 18.

4. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SETHNA HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT SATISFACTORY OPERATION OF A TRANSMISSION SYSTEM IS VITAL FOR ANY POWER STATION. ON MAY 25, WITH THIS IN MIND, HE NOTIFIED BOTH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS OF MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT THAT WITH THE STEPPING UP OF POWER FROM THE TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION TO THE FULL CAPACITY OF TWO UNITS, THE RELIABILITY OF TRANSMISSION LINES AND BUSES IN THE SWITCHYARD AT BOTH THE RECEIVING AND SUPPLYING ENDS, AS WELL AS THE PROTECTIVE SYSTEMS, SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CHECKED TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF POWER. AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CONSTITUTED CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MAHARASHTRA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD, GUJARAT ELECTRICITY BOARD, TATAS AND ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY TO REVIEW THE POSITION OF PROTECTION SYSTEMS ON THE GRID AND RELATED PROBLEMS. THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY HOPES THAT WITH THE COOPER-
RATION OF ALL CONCERNED, AND ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE, APPROPRIATE MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE TRANSMISSION PROTECTION SYSTEMS ARE SO OPERATED THAT SUCH SITUATIONS DO NOT RECUR.

5. USAEC SCI REP REQUESTS TEXT OF CABLE BE SENT TO DR. A. S. FRIEDMAN, DIRECTOR, DIP, USAEC GERMANTOWN. SIGNED BANE
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE07134
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730622/aaaajext.tel
Line Count: 147
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AEC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Oct-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980212
Subject: TARAPUR POWER LOSS
TAGS: ENRG, IN
To: AEC
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005